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Atty. Dkt. No. P61950US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: STOFFEL, et al.

Serial No.: 09/485,473

Group Art Unit: 1644

Filed: 11 February 2000

Examiner P. Nolan

For: NEUTRAL SPHINGOMYELINASE

RECEIVED

MAY 22 2002

AMENDMENT

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The instant paper responds to the Office Action mailed November 20, 2001.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, before line 1, insert the following paragraph:

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--This is a 371 of PCT/EP 98/05127 filed 11 August 1998.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1, 2, 14, and 15, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Add the following claims:

28. A eukaryotic neutral sphingomyelinase having the sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant of said eukaryotic neutral sphingomyelinase of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2 having eukaryotic neutral sphingomyelinase enzymatic activity, wherein the variant is